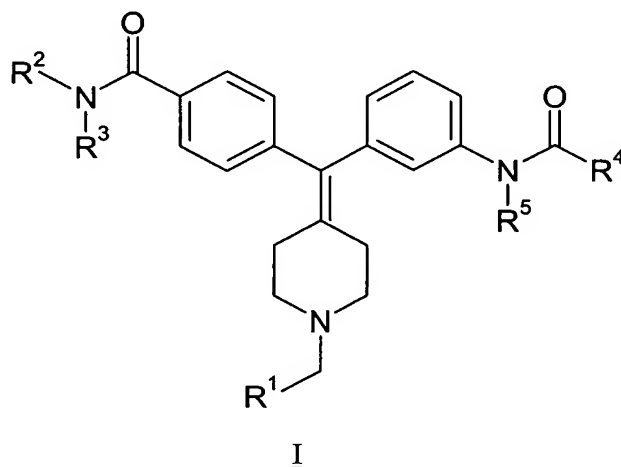


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A compound of formula I, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:



wherein

R¹ is selected from C₆₋₁₀aryl and C₂₋₆heteroaryl, wherein said C₆₋₁₀aryl and C₂₋₆heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; and

R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1,

wherein R¹ is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl, wherein R¹ is optionally

substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogenated C₁₋₆alkyl, -NO₂, -CF₃, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R², R³, and R⁴ are, independently, C₁₋₃alkyl or halogenated C₁₋₃alkyl;

R⁵ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogenated C₁₋₆alkyl, -NO₂, -CF₃, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 1,

wherein R¹ is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; pyrrolyl; and thiazolyl, wherein R¹ is optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogenated C₁₋₆alkyl, -NO₂, -CF₃, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R², R³, and R⁴ are, independently, C₁₋₃alkyl or halogenated C₁₋₃alkyl; and
R⁵ is hydrogen.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 1,

wherein R¹ is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl, and thiazolyl;

R² and R³ are ethyl;

R⁴ is C₁₋₃alkyl; and

R⁵ is hydrogen.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

4-{{3-(acetylamino)phenyl}[1-(thien-2-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;

4-{{3-(acetylamino)phenyl}[1-(2-furylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;

4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(phenylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-benzamide;

4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(3-thienylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-benzamide;

4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-benzamide;

4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-benzamide;

4-{{3-(acetylamino)phenyl}[1-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;

4-{{3-(acetylamino)phenyl}[1-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;

4-{{3-(acetylamino)phenyl}[1-(1,3-thiazol-5-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. (cancelled)

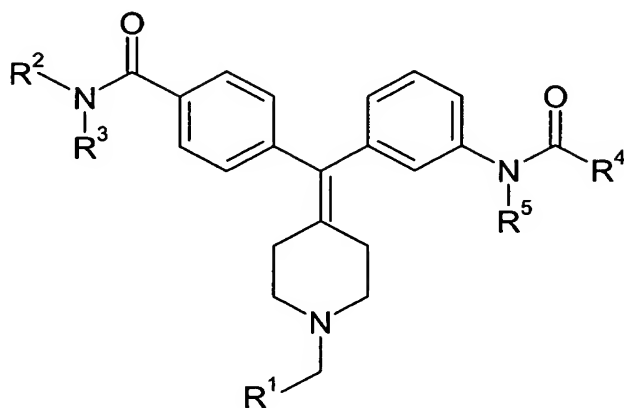
7. (currently amended) ~~The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 in the manufacture of a medicament~~ A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

8. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. (currently amended) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1.

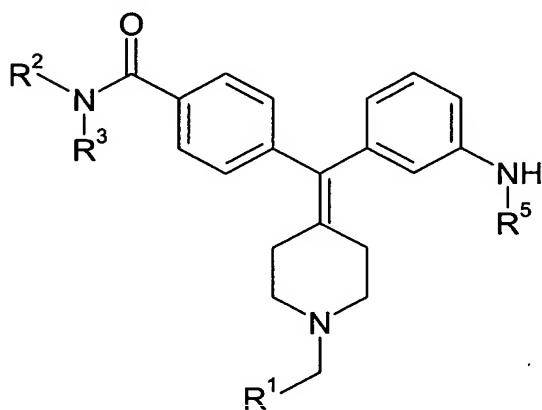
10. (currently amended) A method for the therapy of functional gastrointestinal disorders in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1.

11. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula I, comprising:



I

reacting a compound of formula II with $X-C(=O)-R^4$ or $R^4C(=O)-OC(=O)R^4$:



II

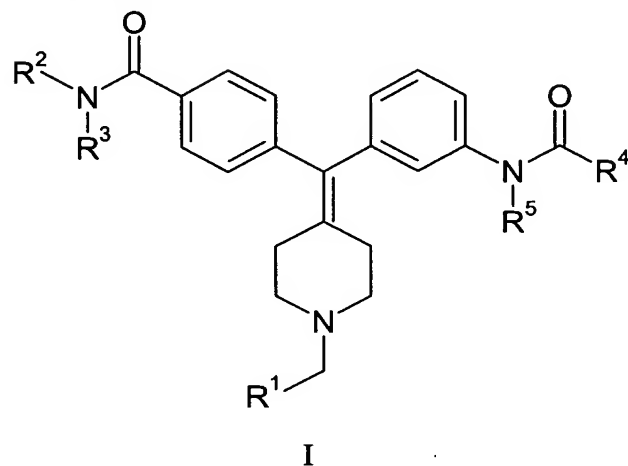
wherein

R^1 is selected from C_{6-10} aryl and C_{2-6} heteroaryl, wherein said C_{6-10} aryl and C_{2-6} heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

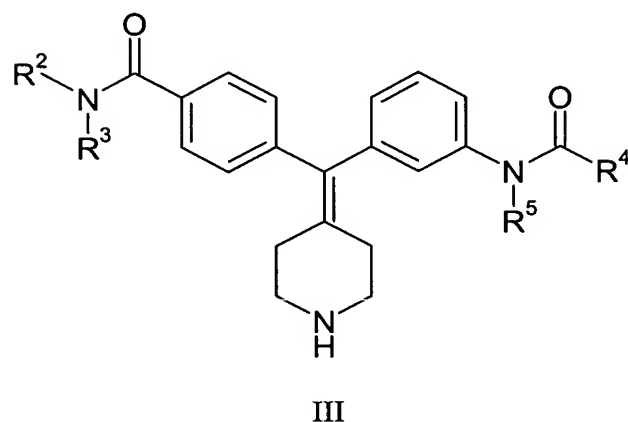
R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

X is Cl, Br or I.

12. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula I, comprising:



reacting a compound of formula III with R^1 -CHO or R^1 -CH₂X:



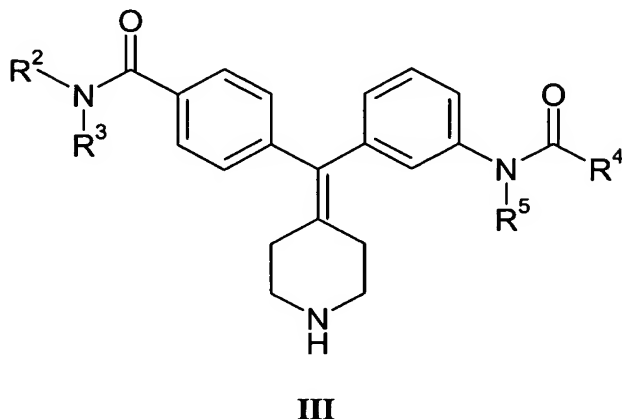
wherein

R^1 is selected from C₆₋₁₀aryl and C₂₋₆heteroaryl, wherein said C₆₋₁₀aryl and C₂₋₆heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; and

X is Cl, Br or I.

13. (original) A compound of formula III:



wherein

R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

14. (new) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 2.

15. (new) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 3.

16. (new) A method for the therapy of anxiety comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

17. (new) A method for the therapy of anxiety comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 2.

18. (new) A method for the therapy of anxiety comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 3.

19. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.